

#### 4.2.4.8 Socioeconomics

##### No Action Alternative

Under this alternative, the existing storage facility would remain operational. No new employment or in-migration of workers would be required.

**Regional Economy Characteristics.** Total employment growth in the REA is projected to average less than 1 percent annually between 1995 and 2040. Total employment is projected to reach 221,800 in 2000 and increase to 254,400 in 2040. Unemployment in the REA was 4.8 percent in 1994 and is projected to remain at this level into the near future. Per capita income is projected to increase from approximately \$19,435 in 1995 to \$22,671 in 2040. Projections for the No Action alternative are presented in Table L.1-37.

**Population and Housing.** Population in the ROI is projected to increase from 206,400 in 1995 to 240,800 by 2040. The total number of housing units in the ROI is projected to increase from 85,400 in 1995 to 99,600 by 2040. Population and housing projections for the No Action Alternative are presented in Appendix Tables L.1-38 and L.1-39, respectively.

**Community Services.** Education, public safety, and health care characteristics are used to assess the level of community services in the Pantex ROI. School enrollments are projected to increase from 39,720 students in 1995 to 46,360 students by 2040. The current student-to-teacher ratio is 16.3:1 and to maintain this level of service, the number of teachers in the ROI would need to increase from 2,438 in 1995 to 2,846 in 2040. No Action projections are presented in Appendix Tables L.1-40 and L.1-41.

The projected numbers of sworn police officers and firefighters serving ROI communities between 1995 and 2040 are shown in Tables L.1-42 and L.1-43, respectively. Under No Action, the number of sworn police officers is projected to increase from 463 in 1995 to 542 in 2040 if the current service level of 2.3 officers per 1,000 persons is maintained. The number of firefighters in the ROI would need to increase from 412 in 1995 to 481 in 2040 to maintain the current level of service of 2.3 firefighters per 1,000 persons.

Hospital occupancy rates are based on current capacity. Hospital occupancy rates and the estimated number of practicing physicians serving the ROI population during the period 1995 to 2040, are presented in Tables L.1-44 and L.1-45, respectively. Hospital occupancy rates in the ROI are projected to increase from 56 percent in 1995 to 65 percent in 2040. If the current physician-to-population ratio of 2.0 physicians per 1,000 persons is maintained, the total number of physicians is projected to increase from 408 in 1995 to 476 in 2040.

**Local Transportation.** The worker population at Pantex would not increase. Therefore, any increases in traffic would be due to the projected growth in the area unrelated to DOE activities. [Text deleted.]

##### Upgrade Alternative

##### *Preferred Alternative: Upgrade With Rocky Flats Environmental Technology Site Plutonium Pits Subalternative*

##### *Modify Existing Zone 12 South Facilities for Continued Plutonium Storage*

The upgrade to continue storing the Pu already located at Pantex and RFETS pits would require 19 workers during peak construction and 90 workers during full operation. There would be sufficient available labor in the REA to fill both direct and indirect jobs created by construction. Therefore, no workers would in-migrate to the region and no change to the region's population would result beyond No Action projections. Some specialized workers would in-migrate during operation.

**Regional Economy Characteristics.** During peak construction of the upgraded facility, a total of 34 jobs (19 direct and 15 indirect) would be generated. Unemployment in the REA would remain at 4.8 percent, as projected under No Action, and the per capita income would increase by less than 1 percent (Socio 1996a).

Operation of the facility would generate a total of 406 jobs (90 direct and 316 indirect). Total employment in the REA would increase less than 1 percent over No Action, and the unemployment rate would fall to 4.7 percent. Per capita income would increase less than 1 percent (Socio 1996a).

**Population and Housing.** Projections indicate that there would be sufficient available labor to fill all of the direct and indirect jobs generated by the construction of the facility. However, some qualified workers would in-migrate to the region during the operation of the facility. Any population increase in the region would be much less than 1 percent, and projected housing vacancies would be sufficient to accommodate the slight population growth.

**Community Services.** No in-migration would occur during construction and the size of the population change during operations would be too small to affect the demand for most community services. Therefore, demand for community services would be the same as for No Action, although one additional physician would be required to maintain the physician to population ratio of 2.0 physicians per 1,000 persons for the ROI.

**Local Transportation.** During peak construction of the facility, workers would generate 36 vehicle trips per day, and during full operations, workers would generate 173 vehicle trips per day. These increases would not affect the level of service on the local road segments analyzed (Socio 1996a).

***Upgrade Without Rocky Flats Environmental Technology Site Plutonium or Los Alamos National Laboratory Plutonium Subalternative***

***Modify Existing Zone 12 South Facilities for Continued Plutonium Storage***

The Upgrade Without RFETS Pu or LANL Pu Subalternative is similar to the Upgrade With RFETS Pu Pits Subalternative because the modified facilities in Zone 12 South would be designed with adequate capacity to store all of the RFETS Pu pits. No additional resources would be required and therefore the impacts would be the same.

***Upgrade With All or Some Rocky Flats Environmental Technology Site Plutonium and Los Alamos National Laboratory Plutonium Subalternative***

***Modify Existing Zone 12 South Facilities for Continued Plutonium Storage***

Construction and operation employment requirements for this facility would be greater than for the Upgrade With RFETS Pu Pits Subalternative, but smaller than for the Consolidation Alternative to Construct New and Modify Existing Zone 12 South Facilities. Therefore, the socioeconomic impacts would likely be greater than previously discussed for the Upgrade With RFETS Pu Pits Subalternative, but smaller than discussed for the Consolidation through upgrade.

[Text deleted.]

**Consolidation Alternative**

***Construct New and Modify Existing Zone 12 South Facilities***

To upgrade the facility for consolidated Pu storage, 1,142 workers would be needed during peak construction and 509 direct workers would be needed for operations. Some of the direct jobs during both phases would be

filled by in-migrating workers. The effects of this in-migration on the region's economy, employment, population, housing, community services, and local transportation are discussed below.

**Regional Economy Characteristics.** During peak construction of the facility, the REA's total employment would increase from the projected No Action employment by almost 1 percent. A total of 2,063 jobs (1,142 direct and 921 indirect) would be generated by constructing the facility. Unemployment would decrease from 4.8 percent to 4.2 percent. Per capita income would increase by less than 1 percent (Socio 1996a).

Operation of the facility would generate 2,295 jobs (509 direct and 1,786 indirect). Total employment in the region during full operation would increase approximately 1 percent over the No Action projection, and unemployment would decrease to 4.0 percent. Per capita income would increase by less than 1 percent (Socio 1996a).

**Population and Housing.** Some qualified workers would in-migrate to the ROI during both the construction and operational phases. However, any population change in the region would be less than 1 percent and projected housing vacancies would be sufficient to accommodate the slight population growth (Socio 1996a).

**Community Services.** An increase in total ROI school enrollment of 251 during construction and 153 during operation of the facility would require 16 teachers above the No Action level during construction and 9 additional teachers during full operations in order to maintain the No Action level of service (Socio 1996a). These increases represent the sum of changes across all the school districts in the ROI, and no single school district would be significantly affected.

The police force in the ROI would need to expand by two officers during both construction and operation in order to maintain the No Action level of service. The additional population resulting from construction would require three firefighters over No Action, while additional population during operations would require only two additional firefighters (Socio 1996a).

Hospital occupancy rates would increase slightly over No Action projections, but available hospital capacity would be able to absorb this increase. Population increases would require three additional physicians during construction and two additional physicians during both construction and operations to maintain the No Action level of service (Socio 1996a).

**Local Transportation.** During peak construction, workers would generate 2,193 vehicle trips per day. This increase would cause a drop in level of service on two local road segments. Farm-to-Market Road 683 from U.S. 60 to Farm-to-Market Road 293, a rural two lane highway, would experience a drop in level of service from A to B. I-27 from Local Route 335 at Amarillo to I-40 at Amarillo would experience a drop in level of service from D to E.

During operations, workers would generate 977 vehicle trips per day. This increase would not affect the level of service on the local road segments analyzed (Socio 1996a).

### *Construct New Plutonium Storage Facility*

The new consolidated Pu storage facility would generate over 2,000 jobs (direct and indirect) during peak construction and over 2,100 jobs during operation. Many of the direct jobs during both construction and operation of the new facility would be expected to be filled by in-migrating workers. The effects of this in-migration on the region's economy, employment, population, housing, community services, and local transportation are discussed below.

**Regional Economy Characteristics.** A total of 2,067 jobs (1,144 direct and 923 indirect) would be generated during construction. Total employment in the REA would increase by almost 1 percent over the No Action projection as a result of construction activities. Unemployment would decrease from the No Action projection of

4.8 percent to 4.2 percent. Per capita income would increase by much less than 1 percent over the No Action projection.

Operation of the consolidated storage facility at Pantex would generate 2,133 jobs (471 direct and 1,660 indirect) during full operation, increasing total employment in the REA by approximately 1 percent over the No Action projection. Unemployment would decrease to 4.1 percent. Per capita income would increase by less than 1 percent over the No Action projection (Socio 1996a).

**Population and Housing.** Project workers and their families would be expected to in-migrate to the ROI to fill direct jobs created by construction and operation of the storage facility. However, the ROI population is expected to increase by less than 1 percent over No Action projections during both construction and operation, and projected housing vacancies would accommodate the increased demand (Socio 1996a).

**Community Services.** The in-migration of approximately 1,384 persons during construction and 762 persons during full operation of the facility would slightly increase the demand for community services. Although school enrollments would increase by less than 1 percent over the projected No Action levels during both construction and full operation, additional teachers would be needed to maintain the No Action level of service. The total number of teachers in the ROI would need to increase by 16 during construction and 8 during operation in order to maintain the No Action level of service (Socio 1996a).

The number of sworn police officers would need to increase by two over No Action projections during construction and by one during operation in order to maintain the No Action service level. Additionally, to maintain the No Action service level of fire protection, the number of firefighters would need to increase by three during construction and one during operations (Socio 1996a).

Hospital occupancy rates during construction and full operation would be slightly higher than the projected No Action rates, but existing capacity would be able to absorb the increase. The number of physicians in the ROI would need to increase by two during construction and by one during full operation in order to maintain the No Action service level (Socio 1996a).

**Local Transportation.** During peak construction, workers would generate 2,196 vehicle trips per day. This increase would cause a drop in level of service on two local road segments. Farm-to-Market Road 683 from U.S. 60 to Farm-to-Market Road 293, a rural two lane highway, would experience a drop in level of service from A to B. I-27 from Local Route 335 at Amarillo to I-40 at Amarillo would experience a drop in level of service from D to E. Operation workers would generate 908 vehicle trips per day and this increase would not affect the level of service on the local road segments analyzed (Socio 1996a).

## **Collocation Alternative**

### *Construct New Plutonium and Highly Enriched Uranium Storage Facilities*

Construction of new storage facilities would be required in order to store Pu and HEU at Pantex. Projections indicate that workers would in-migrate to fill some of the direct jobs generated during both the construction and operation phases at Pantex. However, there would be sufficient labor available in the REA to fill the indirect jobs created during both periods. The effects on the region's economy, population, housing, community services, and local transportation are discussed below.

**Regional Economy Characteristics.** Construction of the consolidated Pu and HEU storage facilities would generate a total of 2,125 jobs (1,176 direct and 949 indirect) in the REA during peak construction at Pantex. Projections indicate that the available labor force would fill all the indirect jobs created, but approximately 558 in-migrant workers would be needed to fill the direct labor requirements. Total employment in the REA would increase 1.0 percent over No Action projections, and unemployment would decrease from 4.8 percent to 4.2 percent. Per capita income would increase less than 1 percent (Socio 1996a).

Operation of the proposed storage facilities would generate a total of 2,710 jobs (601 direct and 2,109 indirect) in the REA. While some specialized direct jobs would be filled by in-migrating workers, all of the indirect positions would be filled by available labor in the region. Total employment in the REA would increase 1.2 percent over the No Action projection, and the REA unemployment rate would decrease to 3.9 percent. Per capita income would increase by less than 1 percent (Socio 1996a).

**Population and Housing.** Approximately 1,468 and 1,070 persons are projected to in-migrate to the region during the construction and operation phases of the proposed storage facilities, respectively (Socio 1996a). Projected housing vacancies would be sufficient to accommodate the increase in demand for housing units.

**Community Services.** The in-migration of population during both the construction and operation phases of the proposed alternative would slightly increase the demand for community services. ROI school enrollments are projected to increase by 269 and 196 students during peak construction and at full operation, respectively. In order to maintain the No Action level of service, the number of teachers would need to increase by 17 during construction and 11 during full operation of the proposed facility (Socio 1996a).

During both peak construction and full operation, the number of sworn police officers would need to increase by two in order to maintain the No Action level of service. [Text deleted.] In order to maintain the No Action service level of 2.0 firefighters per 1,000 persons, the number of firefighters would need to increase by four during peak construction and by two during full operation (Socio 1996a).

Projected hospital occupancy rates, during peak construction and full operation, would be slightly higher than the No Action projections, but existing capacity would be able to accommodate the increase. The number of physicians in the ROI would need to increase by two during both peak construction and full operation in order to maintain the No Action service level (Socio 1996a).

**Local Transportation.** During peak construction, workers would generate 2,258 vehicle trips per day. This increase would cause a drop in level of service on two local road segments. Farm-to-Market Road 683 from U.S. 60 to Farm-to-Market Road 293, a rural two lane highway, would experience a drop in level of service from A to B. I-27 from Local Route 335 at Amarillo to I-40 at Amarillo would experience a drop in level of service from D to E. Operation employees would generate 1,154 vehicle trips per day. This increase would not affect the level of service on the local road segments analyzed (Socio 1996a).

#### **Subalternative Not Including Strategic Reserve and Weapons Research and Development Materials**

Not including the strategic reserve and weapons R&D materials in the storage options would slightly reduce the number of employees needed during operations. Fewer workers would in-migrate, and the increase in demand for housing and community services would be smaller. A smaller workforce would still benefit the regional economy, but on a smaller scale than if the larger facility was constructed for the No Action Alternative, the Upgrade Alternative, the Consolidation Alternative, and the Collocation Alternative. [Text deleted.]

#### **Phaseout**

Phaseout of existing Pu storage facilities at Pantex would result in a loss of five operational employees. Some of these positions would likely be transferred to other onsite activities, reducing the impact of a storage facility phaseout. At maximum, phaseout would result in a total loss of 28 direct and indirect jobs within the region, but decreases to regional employment and income would be imperceptible. In the longer term, some displaced workers would be expected to leave the region to seek other employment opportunities. However, any resulting decreases in population would be negligible.

Phaseout of the existing Pu storage facilities at Pantex would slightly reduce the number of vehicle trips per day generated by site workers. There would be no significant traffic impact to the local road network due to this alternative.